

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: December 15, 2003

Signature: K. Caploon

(Konstantin A. Caploon)

Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-395 CONT
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Patent Application of:
Markworth et al.

Application No.: 10/655,440

Group Art Unit: 3731

Filed: September 4, 2003

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: **SYSTEM FOR USE IN SPINAL
STABILIZATION**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

It is respectfully requested that the references listed on the enclosed form be made of record and considered with respect to the above-referenced U.S. patent application. Submission of the present Information Disclosure Statement should not be taken as an admission that the cited references are legally available prior art or that the same are pertinent or material.

In the event that any fee is due in connection with the present Information Disclosure Statement, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

Dated: December 15, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By K. Caploon

Konstantin A. Caploon

Registration No.: 51,527

LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,

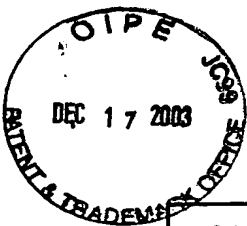
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP

600 South Avenue West

Westfield, New Jersey 07090

(908) 654-5000

Attorney for Applicant



PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	UNKNOWN
				Filing Date	September 4, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Aaron Markworth
				Art Unit	N/A
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	SPINE 3.0-395 CONT

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	AA	US-5,899,901	05-04-1999	Middleton	
	AB	US-6,530,929-B1	03-11-2003	Justis et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--